

3033 Wayne Trace
PO Box 10088
Fort Wayne IN 46850-0088

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**INTERNATIONAL**

99V-055.001 (01)

Subject: Part 573.5 Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

The defective automatic slack adjusters were manufactured by:

Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems, LLC
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, MI 48064-7186

Our contact at Meritor is:

Mr. Tom Bowman
Manager Product Integrity & Reliability
(248) 435-8682

- (1) NAVISTAR RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED: 99504
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED: 2500, 2600, 3800, 4700, 4800, 4900, 5000, 8100, 9100, 9200, 9400, 9800, 9900, FE Bus.
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 1999
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:
Vehicles with Meritor air brake automatic slack adjusters.
- (5) VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES: 1/11/99 through 1/20/99
- (6) VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED: 1,547 This quantity represents the total suspect population.

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- (7) **PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT:** 3%
- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** A percentage of the automatic slack adjusters had insufficient torque applied to the guide pawl cap screw. Without sufficient torque on the guide pawl cap screw, the brakes may gradually lose adjustment.
- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** Without the automatic adjustment feature, the brakes will lose adjustment until they eventually become ineffective. Under certain conditions, an ineffective brake may increase the vehicle stopping distance. Should this happen, **it could result in a vehicle accident causing personal injury, property damage, or both.**
- (10) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT:** On 1/14/99, Meritor informed Navistar of a possible problem with automatic slack adjusters. Personnel were sent to Navistar locations to sort material. An investigation was initiated to determine the suspect field population. A safety recall was declared on 3/11/99.
- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** The torque will be checked on the automatic slack adjuster guide pawl. If there is no torque, the brakes will be adjusted and the guide pawl will be tightened to 15-20 ft lbs.
- (12) **THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS:**
Notify Navistar Field Service: 3/22/99
Notify Navistar Dealers: 3/29/99
Notify Customers: 4/5/99
- (13) **PROCEDURE TO INFORM SECRETARY OF FAILURE TO REMEDY WITHOUT CHARGE:** Paragraph to be added to owner notification letter as follows: If you take your vehicle to your International dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date and he does not remedy this condition without charge on that date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by following the procedure described in the Owner Assistance Guide section of your Owner's Manual. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC., 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (Washington, DC, area residents may call 336-0123) if your dealer or International fails or is unable to remedy this condition without charge or within a reasonable time.

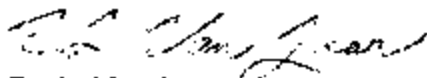
Page 3, March 16, 1999

(14) OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER: To follow at the time they are released to the purchasers.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (219) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,

NAVISTAR INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION CORP.



R. L. Van Laar
Compliance Manager

Enclosure

Certified Mail # Z 276 409 835

cc: R. H. Dodge - TRC